

7. Satellite reaction to Stalin's death: Noncommunists in eastern Europe reacted to the news of Stalin's death generally along national lines but with mixed feelings of hope and despair.

Unrealistically, but characteristically, many Czechs experienced a surge of hope, viewing Stalin's death as the beginning of the end of their oppression. Calmer individuals, however, believed conditions would be worse under Malenkov. Hungarians were apathetic but generally felt relief and encouragement based on the belief that only a change for the better could follow Stalin's death. There were also occasional expressions of disquiet that Stalin's successor might follow an aggressive policy and provoke a world war. Polish non-communist reaction has been one of joy and hope.

RUMANIA

In Bucharest many reports were received of rejoicing and drinking throughout the city which are partly confirmed by a government order on 6 March prohibiting the sale of alcohol until further notice. In general, the Rumanian population seemed to realize that Stalin's death was no sign that the police state was ending.

In contrast to these expressions of noncommunist feeling were reports from the American missions in Prague and Bucharest that unusual security precautions had been instituted. None were noted in Budapest. Radio Belgrade reported special security measures in Albania and Bulgaria with security police and military forces placed on standby orders. No reports have been received concerning special security measures in Poland.

25X1A2g